



Archpriest Thomas Soroka, *Rector*
Deacon Luke Loboda, *Attached*

32nd Saturday/Sunday after Pentecost

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org January 16-17, 2021

Welcome!

Whether you are searching for a new church home or just visiting, we are glad you're with us today. If you have a prayer request, are looking for more information about the Orthodox Faith, would like to join our parish, or would like to speak with Fr Thomas, we invite you to fill out a visitor's card and drop it in the offering basket as your offering today. We want to get to know you! God bless you!

This Week

Saturday, January 16

10:00 am Divine Liturgy

5:00 pm Great Vespers with Cathedral Vigil

Sunday, January 17

10:00 am Divine Liturgy/Church School

Tuesday, January 19

9:00 am Daily Matins

9:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours

Thursday, January 21

9:00 am Daily Matins

9:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours

Saturday, January 23

10 am Divine Liturgy

5:00 pm Great Vespers with Cathedral Vigil

Sunday, January 24

10:00 am Divine Liturgy/Church School

Announcements

➤ **The St. Nicholas Food Pantry needs your donations!** Our monthly food pantry will be open to the community on the last Saturday of each month from 4-5 pm. Saturday, January 30th, 2020 will be the first day. Please help support this parish ministry and our local community by bringing non-perishable donations to stock our pantry. All donations can be placed in the donation box by the back door of the church basement. Please contact Mat, Ashley or Kate Skowron for additional information.

➤ The **Annual Parish Meeting** will take place on Sunday, January 31 after the Divine Liturgy. Only members in good standing may participate. Officer and organization reports must be submitted by today to Kristie Mertz.

➤ **Church offering envelopes are now available at the Candle Desk.** Individuals or families who generally donate via automatic payment may not have been issued envelopes. If you wish to have a set of envelopes or you cannot locate yours, please see Kristie Mertz.

Prayers

➤ **Ill and infirm:** *Known to be hospitalized:* (none) *Home:* Geroge Shaytar, Sandi Tirpak, Paul Yewisiak, *Shut in, Rehabilitation, or Nursing Home:* Garnette Kerchum, Eleanor Kovacs, Natalie Popovich, Olga Tryszyn.

➤ **Vigil Lights** from the **John Mahalchak family** for the health of friends and family, especially Cheryl, John, Gregory, Mary, Daniel, and Kayla. From **Annaliese Mertz** for the departed servants Dylan Paclawski and Caroline Mertz-Teunissen. From **Jeff Kopycinski** for the health of Luann, recovering from surgery. From **Doris Wasilko** for the departed servants (father) Charles, (brother) Raymond, (grandmother) Susan Wasilko. From **Mat, Nancy and Gregory Mell** for the newly departed servant of God Dylan Paclawski and Dn Joseph Mell; for the health of family. From **Marsha Wasilko** for the departed servants (parents) Charles and Mary, (grandmother) Susan Wasilko (1-15-1980), (brother) Ray (1-10-2017); for the health of Phyllis Esau. From **Charles Wasilko** for the departed servants Baba Wasilko and brother Raymond. From **John Kowalcheck and Olga Cozza** for the health of Galina Vilкова; for the health of Teresa Slimak on her birthday.

Thank You

➤ to all those who generously gave to support Yelena and Henry Paclawski in helping with funeral expenses for Dylan. \$2,100 was presented to them on behalf of the parish. Additionally, many parishioners helped to cook and serve the repast after the Funeral, and of course the choir who sang for the Panikhida on Monday and the Funeral service on Tuesday.

This Week in Church School

Today's lesson: Judges and Gideon

Scripture reference: Judges

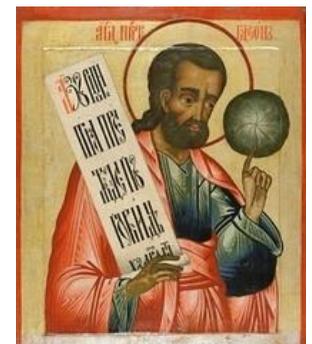
Questions to ask/review:

- Why was God angry with the Israelites?
- Why did God bother to save them after their consistent rebellion?
- How did God call Gideon?
- How did Gideon destroy Baal? Why?
- What was the purpose of the fleece?
- How did Gideon select his men? How did he win the battle?
- Why did the Hebrews prosper when a judge was alive?
- Should Christians expect all good times simply because they believe in God? Why?
- What similarities do you see between yourself and Gideon? Differences?
- In what ways was God at work in Gideon's life? In yours?
- How did he speak to Gideon? To you?

Suggested Activities at home:

Have fun by practicing drinking water like Gideon's 300 men.

Prayer: Lord, lead us and teach us as You did Gideon.



DATES TO NOTE
Orthodox Great Lent Begins Monday, March 15
Western Easter is on Sunday, April 4
Orthodox Pascha is on Sunday, May 2



St Nicholas Church will strive to glorify God through Orthodox Christian worship, sincere love and care for one another, and service to those in need around us.

Hymns and Readings for Saturday, Jan 16

Tone 2 Troparion of Saturday

Apostles, martyrs, and prophets,
Holy hierarchs, saints, and righteous ones,
Having fought the good fight and kept the faith,
Ye have boldness towards the Saviour.
Intercede for us with Him, for He is good. //
and pray that He may save our souls.

Tone 4 Troparion (St Nicholas)

You appeared to your flock as a rule of faith,
an image of humility, and a teacher of
abstinence.

Because of your lowliness heaven was opened to
you!

Because of your poverty riches were granted to
you!

O holy Bishop Nicholas,
pray to Christ our God to save our souls.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the
Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of
ages. Amen.*

Tone 8 Kontakion of Saturday

The universe offers thee the God-bearing
martyrs,

As the first fruits of creation, O Lord and
Creator, //

Through the Theotokos and their prayers
establish Thy Church in peace.

Tone 8 Prokeimenon of Saturday (Psalm 31/32)

Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O ye righteous.

Epistle of the Saturday (1 Thes 5:14-23)

Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who
are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the
weak, be patient with all. See that no one
renders evil for evil to anyone, but always
pursue what is good both for yourselves and for
all.

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in
everything give thanks; for this is the will of
God in Christ Jesus for you.

Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise
prophecies. Test all things; hold fast what is
good. Abstain from every form of evil.

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you
completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and
body be preserved blameless at the coming of
our Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel of the Saturday (Luke 12:32-40)

“Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father’s
good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell
what you have and give alms; provide
yourselves money bags which do not grow old, a
treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where
no thief approaches nor moth destroys. For
where your treasure is, there your heart will be
also.

“Let your waist be girded and your lamps
burning; and you yourselves be like men who
wait for their master, when he will return from
the wedding, that when he comes and knocks
they may open to him immediately. Blessed are
those servants whom the master, when he
comes, will find watching. Assuredly, I say to
you that he will gird himself and have them sit
down to eat, and will come and serve them. And
if he should come in the second watch, or come
in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are
those servants. But know this, that if the master
of the house had known what hour the thief
would come, he would have watched and not
allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore
you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming
at an hour you do not expect.”

Communion Hymn of Saturday

Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous. Praise befits

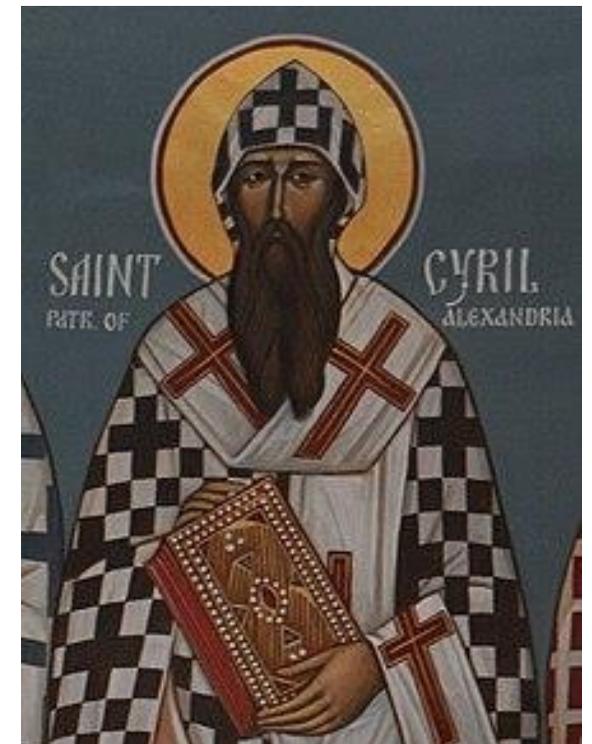
the just. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! (Ps 33:1)

Commentary on Today’s Gospel

And the way in which to lend it He next teaches
us, saying; "Sell your possessions, and give
alms. Make you purses that grow not old: and a
treasure that fails not, eternal, in "heaven." And
the very same the blessed David also teaches us
in the Psalms, where he says by inspiration of
every merciful and good man: "He has
dispersed, and given to the poor, and his
righteousness is stored up for ever." For worldly
wealth has many foes: for thieves are numerous,
and this world of ours is full of oppressors; of
whom some are wont to plunder by secret
means, while others use violence, and tear it
away even from those who resist. But the wealth
that is laid up above in heaven, no one injures:
for God is its Keeper, Who sleeps not.

And besides it is a very absurd thing, that while
we often entrust men of probity with our earthly
wealth, and feel no fear lest any loss should
result from our confidence in the uprightness of
those who receive it; we will not trust it to God,
Who receives from us these earthly things,
so to speak, as a loan, and promises to give us
things eternal, and that with usury. "For good
measure," He says, "and pressed close, and
weighing down the scale, and running over,
shall they give into your bosom." And for the
measure to run over, is a direct proof of its
great abundance. Away then with this pleasure-
loving wealth; this parent of base lusts; this
inciter to carnal impurity; this friend of
covetousness; this worker of boasting: which, as
with indissoluble bonds, chains the human mind
in effeminacy and indolence towards all that is
good, and stretches out, so to speak, a stiff and
haughty neck against God: for it yields not itself
to that yoke which would lead it unto piety. And
be gentle, and merciful, ready to communicate,
and courteous. For the Lord is true, Who says;

"that where your treasure is, there is your heart
also." For the whole earnestness of those who
value these temporal things is set upon them;
while those who wish for that which is in
heaven, direct thither the eye of the mind. Bo
therefore, as I said, friendly to your
companions, and merciful. And the blessed Paul
makes me speak unto you, where he writes;
"Charge them who are rich in this world, that
they be not high-minded, nor trust in riches,
wherein is no reliance, but on God, Who gives us
all things richly to enjoy: that they do good: that
they be rich in good works, ready to give, and
willing to share with others; laying up for
themselves treasures that shall be a good
foundation for that which is to come, that they
may lay hold upon true life." These are the
things which, if we earnestly practice, we shall
become heirs of the kingdom of heaven, by
Christ; by Whom and with Whom to God the
Father be praise and dominion, with the Holy
Spirit, for ever and over, Amen. (*St Cyril of
Alexandria, 5th c*)



Hymns and Readings for Sunday, Jan 17

Tone 7 Troparion (*Resurrection*)

By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death.
To the thief Thou didst open Paradise.
For the Myrrhbearers Thou didst change
weeping into joy,
and Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ
God,
to proclaim that Thou art risen,//
granting the world great mercy.

Tone 4 Troparion (*St Nicholas*)

You appeared to your flock as a rule of faith,
an image of humility, and a teacher of
abstinence.
Because of your lowliness heaven was opened to
you!
Because of your poverty riches were granted to
you!
O holy Bishop Nicholas,
pray to Christ our God to save our souls.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the
Holy Spirit.*

Tone 7 Kontakion (*Resurrection*)

The dominion of death can no longer hold men
captive,
for Christ descended, shattering and destroying
its powers.
Hell is bound, while the Prophets rejoice and
cry:
“The Savior has come to those in faith;//
enter, you faithful, into the Resurrection!”

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 6 Kontakion (*Theotokos*)

Steadfast protectress of Christians,
constant advocate before the Creator,
do not despise the cry of us sinners,
but in your goodness come speedily to help us
who call on you in faith.

Hasten to hear our intercessions and to
intercede for us, O Theotokos
For you always protect those who honor you.

Tone 7 Prokeimenon (*Resurrection*)

The Lord shall give strength to His people. / The
Lord shall bless His people with peace. (*Ps*
28/29:11)

Epistle of the Sunday (Colossians 1:12-18)

giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us
to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints
in the light. He has delivered us from the power
of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of
the Son of His love, in whom we have
redemption through His blood, the forgiveness
of sins.

He is the image of the invisible God, the
firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things
were created that are in heaven and that are on
earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or
dominions or principalities or powers. All things
were created through Him and for Him. And He
is before all things, and in Him all things
consist. And He is the head of the body, the
church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from
the dead, that in all things He may have the
preeminence.

Gospel of the Sunday (Luke 18:18-27)

Now a certain ruler asked Him, saying, “Good
Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?”

So Jesus said to him, “Why do you call Me good?
No one is good but One, that is, God. You know
the commandments: ‘Do not commit adultery,’
‘Do not murder,’ ‘Do not steal,’ ‘Do not bear
false witness,’ ‘Honor your father and your
mother.’ ”

And he said, “All these things I have kept from
my youth.”

So when Jesus heard these things, He said to
him, “You still lack one thing. Sell all that you
have and distribute to the poor, and you will
have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.”

But when he heard this, he became very
sorrowful, for he was very rich.

And when Jesus saw that he became very
sorrowful, He said, “How hard it is for those
who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!
For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye
of a needle than for a rich man to enter the
kingdom of God.”

And those who heard it said, “Who then can be
saved?”

But He said, “The things which are impossible
with men are possible with God.”

Communion Hymn of Sunday

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in
the highest! (*Ps. 148:1*) Alleluia, Alleluia,
Alleluia!

Sayings of St Anthony

13. A hunter in the desert saw Abba Anthony
enjoying himself with the brethren and he was
shocked. Wanting to show him that it was
necessary sometimes to meet the needs of the
brethren, the old man said to him, "Put an
arrow in your bow and shoot it." So he did. The
old man then said, "Shoot another," and he did
so. Then the old man said, "Shoot yet again," and
the hunter replied "If I bend my bow so much I
will break it." Then the old man said to him, "It
is the same with the work of God. If we stretch
the brethren beyond measure they will soon
break. Sometimes it is necessary to come down
to meet their needs." When he heard these

words the hunter was pierced by compunction
and, greatly edified by the old man, he went
away. As for the brethren, they went home
strengthened.

5. The brothers praised a monk before Abba
Anthony. When the monk came to see him,
Anthony wanted to know how he would bear
insults; and seeing that he could not bear them
at all, he said to him, "You are like a village
magnificently decorated on the outside, but
destroyed from within by robbers."

16. A brother said to Abba Anthony, "Pray for
me." The old man said to him, " I will have no
mercy upon you, nor will God have any, if you
yourself do not make an effort and if you do not
pray to God.

17. One day some old men came to see Abba
Anthony. In the midst of them was Abba Joseph.
Wanting to test them, the old man suggested a
text from the Scriptures, and, beginning with
the youngest, he asked them what it meant.
Each gave his opinion as he was able. But to
each one the old man said, "You have not
understood it." Last of all he said to Abba
Joseph, "How would you explain this saying?"
and he replied, "I do not know." Then Abba
Anthony said, "Indeed, Abba Joseph has found
the way, for he has said: 'I do not know.'"

24. It was revealed to Abba Anthony in his
desert that there was one who was his equal in
the city. He was a doctor by profession and
whatever he had beyond his needs he gave to
the poor, and every day he sang the Sanctus
with the angels.

25. Abba Anthony said, "A time is coming when
men will go mad, and when they see someone
who is not mad, they will attack him saying,
'You are mad, you are not like us.'"